

CLAIMS:

Agent for Applicant requests that the following amendments be made to the claims without adding any new subject matter. The additions thereto are underlined, while the deletions therefrom are contained in square brackets.

Amendments to Claims

1. A wagering game method which comprises the following steps:
- a. defining a game set of $N > 1$ information elements by generating a set of N non-repeating information codes in a computer memory;
- b. communicating to a plurality of players via a communication medium one or more communications including information about the information codes;
- c. selection by each of the plurality of players of one or more information codes as a wager;
- d. receiving communications from the plurality of players that include information about the wager or wagers of the plurality of players, and identification data for each of the plurality of players;
- e. registration of the communications from the plurality of players within one or more playing rounds whereby the order of arrival of the communications defines a sequence of wagers, which sequence is kept hidden from the players until the current wager round is completed;
- f. drawing wagers by means of an iterative-analytical process consisting of iterative defining a quantitative wager distribution based on the information codes of the wagers registered in sequence, and comparing the quantitative wager distribution on each iteration to rules predefined for determining a wager round end and the winning wager for the wager round, the iterative-analytical process being hidden from the players until the current playing round is completed; and
- g. implementing the wager drawing end upon observation of the wager round end.

[forming of a game set of $N > 1$ Information elements by means of generation of a set of N non-repeating information codes in a computer memory, propagation, among the players through communication lines, of signals carrying information about the game set elements, selection by every player of one of the game set elements as a wager, forwarding, through feedback communication lines, of signals which identify the players and carry information about the wagers, identification and registration of signals received through feedback lines, forming of a wager payment data, a wager drawing within playing rounds, characterized in

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that the signals carrying wager information are registered as a sequence of signals in the order of signal arrival through feedback lines, said sequence is kept hidden from the players until the playing round is completed, and the wager drawing is carried out by means of an iterative-analytical process of forming a quantitative wager distribution among the game set elements, said process is kept hidden from the players until the playing round is completed, and within every iteration of the said process a regular signal of a registered signal sequence is correlated with the information code of the game set element selected as a wager by the player, the number of signals correlated with the information code of the game set element within the current playing round is determined, observation of conditions of a wager drawing end is checked, and a wager drawing is completed as soon as the said conditions are observed, and in the presence of registered wager information carrying signals not processed by the iterative-analytical wager drawing process before the completion of the current playing round the said signals are processed by the iterative-analytical wager drawing process within one of the next rounds.]

2. The [A] method as claimed in [of] claim 1 whereby [characterized in that within] in every iteration of the [a] wager drawing process, the information codes are identified [revealed] in relation to [with] which no signal has been correlated within the current playing round, and the iterative-analytical wager drawing process is completed by [in the] processing [of] a signal containing information corresponding to an information code for which [about a wager on the only game set element with whose information code] no signal has been previously correlated by the iterative-analytical process within the current wager [playing] round [before the processing of this signal].

3. The [A] method as claimed in [of] claim 1, whereby [characterized] in [that within] every iteration of the [a] wager drawing process, starting with the N iteration, the information codes are identified [revealed] with which no signal has been correlated within the current wager [playing] round, and the iterative-analytical wager drawing process is completed in the processing of a signal containing information corresponding to an information code for which [about a wager on the only game set element with whose information code] no signal has been correlated by the iterative-analytical process within the current playing round before the processing of this signal.

4. The [A] method as claimed in [of] claim 1, whereby [characterized] in [that within] every iteration of the [a] wager drawing process, the information codes are identified [revealed] with which only one signal has been correlated within the current wager [playing] round, and the iterative-analytical wager drawing process is completed in the presence of [only] one said information code and in the absence of information codes with which no signal has been correlated by the iterative-analytical process within the current wager [playing] round before the processing of this signal.

5. The [A] method as claimed in [of] claim 1, whereby [characterized] in [that within] every iteration of the [a] wager drawing process, starting with the (2N-1) iteration, information codes are identified [revealed] with which only one signal has been correlated within the current wager [playing] round, and the iterative-analytical wager drawing process is completed in the presence of [only] one said information code and in the absence of information codes with which no signal has been correlated by the iterative-analytical process within the current wager [playing] round before the processing of this signal.

6. The [A] method as claimed in [of] claim 1, whereby [characterized in that with a] the game set is formed by N>2 information elements, and within every iteration of the [a] wager drawing process, information codes are identified [revealed] with which a [the] minimum and a maximum number of signals have been defined and have been correlated within the current wager [playing] round, and the iterative-analytical wager drawing process is completed in the presence of [only] one information code with which the minimum number of signals has been correlated within the current playing round, of [only] one information code with which the maximum number of signals has been correlated within the current playing round, and in the absence of information codes with which no signal has been correlated within the current playing round.

7. The [A] method as claimed in [of] claim 1, whereby [characterized in that with a] the game set is formed by N>2 information elements, and within every iteration of the [a] wager drawing process, starting with the 2N iteration, information codes are identified [revealed] with which a [the] minimum and a [the] maximum number of signals have been defined and have been correlated within the current wager [playing] round, and the iterative-analytical wager drawing process is completed in the presence of [only] one information code with which the minimum number of signals has been correlated within the current wager [playing] round, of only one information code with which the maximum number of signals has been correlated within the current wager [playing] round, and in the absence of information codes with which no signal has been correlated within the current wager [playing] round.

8. A wagering game method which comprises the steps of:
forming [of] a game set of N>1 non-repeating information elements,
propagating [propagation] among one or more [the] players of playing coupons carrying information about the contents of the [game set] information elements,
entering [of] identification data onto the [said] coupons,
selection [marking] of one of the [game set] information elements by every player as a wager selected,
return of the coupons with the wager selection [marks on them] to the game administrator to
effect wager drawing,

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registration of the returned coupons with the selected [marked] wagers and the results of the wager drawings [within playing rounds], such [characterized in] that the coupons [with the wager marks on them] are registered as a sequence of coupons in the order of their arrival on return [arrival], said sequence being [is] kept hidden from the players until the playing round is completed, and the wager drawing is carried out by means of an iterative-analytical process of forming a quantitative wager distribution among the [game set] information elements, said process being [is] kept hidden from the players until the playing round is completed, and within every iteration of the said process a regular coupon of a registered coupon sequence is correlated with the [game set] information element selected as a wager by the player, the number of coupons correlated with each information element of the game set within the current playing round is determined, observation of defined conditions of a wager drawing end is checked, and the wager drawing is completed as soon as the said conditions are observed, and in the presence of registered coupons carrying wager marks which are not processed by the iterative-analytical wager drawing process before the completion of the current playing round, these coupons are processed by the iterative-analytical wager drawing process within one of the next rounds.

9. The [A] method as claimed in [of] claim 8, whereby [characterized in that within] every iteration of the [a] wager drawing process, the game set elements are identified [revealed] in relation to [with] which no coupon has been correlated within the current playing round, and the wager drawing is completed with an iterative-analytical processing of a coupon containing a wager mark corresponding to the only game set element with which no coupon has been correlated within the current wager [playing] round before the processing of this coupon.

10. The [A] method as claimed in [of] claim 8, whereby [characterized in that within] every iteration of the [a] wager drawing process, starting with the N iteration, the game set elements are identified [revealed] in relation to with which no coupon has been correlated within the current wager [playing] round, and the wager drawing is completed with an iterative-analytical processing of a coupon containing a wager mark corresponding to the only game set element with which no coupon has been correlated within the current playing round before the processing of this coupon.

11. The [A] method as claimed in [of] claim 8, whereby [characterized in that within] every iteration of the [a] wager drawing process, the game set elements are identified [revealed] in relation to with which only one coupon has been correlated within the current wager [playing] round, and the wager drawing is completed in the presence of [only] one such element and in the absence of in the game set of elements with which no coupon has been correlated within the current wager [playing] round.

12. The [A] method as claimed in [of] claim 8, whereby [characterized in that within] every iteration of the [a] wager drawing process, starting with the (2N-1) iteration, the game set elements are identified [revealed] in relation to with which only one coupon has been correlated within the current wager [playing] round, and the wager drawing is completed in the presence of only one said element and in the absence in the game set of elements with which no coupon has been correlated within the current wager [playing] round.

13. The [A] method as claimed in [of] claim 8, whereby [characterized in that within with] the [a] game set formed by $N > 2$ information elements, and within every iteration of a wager drawing process the game set elements are identified [revealed] in relation to with which a [the] minimum and a [the] maximum number of coupons have been correlated within the current playing round, and the wager drawing process is completed in the presence of [only] one element with which the minimum number of coupons has been correlated within the current playing round, of only one element with which the maximum number of coupons has been correlated within the current playing round, and in the absence of game set elements with which no coupon has been correlated within the current playing round.

14. The [A] method as claimed in [of] claim 8, whereby [characterized in that within with] a game set formed by $N > 2$ information elements, within every iteration of a wager drawing process, starting with the 2N iteration, the game set elements are identified [revealed] in relation to with which a [the] minimum and a [the] maximum number of coupons have been correlated within the current playing round, and the wager drawing process is completed in the presence of [only] one element with which the minimum number of coupons have been defined and has been correlated within the current wager [playing] round, of only one element with which the maximum number of coupons has been correlated within the current wager [playing] round, and in the absence in the game set of elements with which no coupon has been correlated within the current wager [playing] round.

15. The [A] method as claimed in [of] claims 1[-] to 14, whereby [characterized in that,] on request of a player, he or she is provided with accumulated information about current quantitative wager distribution among the information [game set] elements relating to an unfinished playing round, and the said information elements [is] are provided [presented] to the player in exchange for a wager which is placed without his or her participation and processed by the [a] wager drawing process out of turn.

16. The [A] method as claimed in [of] claims 1[-] to 14, whereby [characterized in that,] on request of a player, before the completion of a wager [playing] round, signals or coupons containing [a] wager information which was [were received] from the [said] player are withdrawn from the [a] wager drawing process in the order opposite to that of their registration.

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17. A wagering game apparatus to carry out a method as claimed in claim 1, comprising a game set forming unit (1) connected via data dissemination unit (2) to one of inputs of a processor (3) connected with its information output to a recognition and identification unit (4), a wager payment unit (5), a wager registration unit (6), a controller (7), a playing-logic unit (8), and a recording unit (9) which are connected in series, a playing-round counter (10) connected to the second input of the wager registration unit (6) and to the second output of the controller (7) connected with its second input to the output of the game set forming unit (1), a long-term memory unit (14) interconnected with the recognition and identification unit (4) and the wager payment unit (5), a timer (17) connected to the controller (7), the recognition and identification unit (4), the wager payment unit (5), and the recording unit (9), characterized in that it further comprises a wager distribution processor (11) interconnected with the controller (7), a wager registration confirmation unit (12) connected to the input of the processor (3) and the second output of the wager registration unit (6), a payment registration unit (15) and an outcome review unit (16) which are interconnected with the long-term memory unit (14) and the processor (3) and also connected to corresponding outputs of the recognition and identification unit (4), the outputs of the recording unit (9) and the wager registration confirmation unit (12) being connected to corresponding inputs of the long-term memory unit (14).

18. An apparatus of claim 17, further comprising [characterized in that it comprises] a wager generator (13) interconnected with the recognition and identification unit (4) and also connected to the output of the game set forming unit (1).

19. An apparatus of claims 17[-] to 18, further comprising [characterized in that it comprises] a wager drawing display unit (18) coupled between the controller (7) and the input/output processor (3).

20. An apparatus of claims 17 [-] to 18, further comprising [characterized in that it comprises] a wager returning unit (19) interconnected with the controller (7) and the long-term memory unit (14) and also connected to an output of the recognition and identification unit (4) and an input of the input/output processor (3).

21. An apparatus of claims 17[-] to 20, wherein [characterized in that] the wager distribution processor (11) includes [comprises] a decoder (20) connected with its outputs to driving inputs of flip-flops (21) which are connected with their outputs to inputs of a ["]logic[al] AND["] gate (22) connected with its output to reset inputs of [the] flip-flops (21).

22. An apparatus of claims 17[-] to 20, wherein [characterized in that] the wager distribution processor (11) includes [comprises] a decoder (20) connected with its outputs to the inputs of counters (23) whose outputs are connected, via comparison units (24), to inverse inputs of a further ["]logical AND["] gate (25) connected with its output to reset the inputs of the counters (23).

23. An apparatus of claims 17[-] to 20, wherein [characterized in that] the wager distribution processor (11) comprises a decoder (20), each of N 1-bit outputs of the said decoder being coupled to a stage of the [a] counter (23) and of a null-comparison unit (24) and a 1-comparison unit (27) which are connected in parallel to the said counter (23), a ["logical AND"] gate (25) with N inverse inputs each coupled to the output of the corresponding [null-]comparison unit (24), an ["exclusive OR"] gate (28) with N inputs each coupled to the output of the corresponding 1-comparison unit (27), a ["logical AND"] gate (29) with two inputs connected to outputs of the gates (25) and (28), and an encoder (30) with N inputs each coupled to the output of the corresponding 1-comparison unit (27), the said gate (29) being connected with its output to reset inputs of the counters (23) and to a control input of the encoder (30).

24. An apparatus of claims 17[-] to 20, wherein [characterized in that] the wager distribution processor (11) comprises a decoder (20), each of N 1-bit outputs of the said decoder being coupled to a stage of a counter (23) and of a [null-]comparison unit (24), a minimum-comparison unit (31), and a maximum-comparison unit (32) which are connected in parallel to the said counter (23), a ["logical AND"] gate (25) with N inverse inputs each coupled to the output of the corresponding [null-]comparison unit (24), a first ["exclusive OR"] gate (28-1) with N inputs each coupled to the output of the corresponding minimum-comparison unit (31), a first ["logical AND"] gate (29-1) with two inputs connected to outputs of the gates (25) and (28-1), a second ["exclusive OR"] gate (28-2) with N inputs each coupled to the output of the corresponding maximum-comparison unit (32), a second ["logical AND"] gate (29-2) with two inputs connected to outputs of the gates (29-1) and (28-2), a first encoder (30-1) with N inputs each coupled to the output of the corresponding minimum-comparison unit (31), a second encoder (30-2) with N inputs each coupled to the output of the corresponding maximum-comparison unit (32), a minimum-counter (33) coupled to the output of the gate (29-1), the said minimum-counter (33) being connected with its output to the input of each of minimum-comparison units (31), and a maximum-counter (34) coupled to the output of the gate (28-2), the said maximum-counter (34) being connected with its output to the input of each of maximum-comparison units (32), the said gate (29-2) being connected with its output to reset inputs of the counters (23), (33), (34), the said gate (29-1) being connected with its output to a control input of the first encoder (30-1), the said gate (28-2) being connected with its output to a control input of the second encoder (30-2).

25. An apparatus of claims 17[-] to 24, wherein [characterized in that] the input/output processor (3) includes a telephone exchange for at least N telephone numbers with an automatic speaker's telephone number determinant and a controlled voice generator.

26. An apparatus of claims 17[-] to 24, wherein [characterized in that] the input/output processor (3) includes a computer network server and a unit for contacting clients of the said network.

27. A method of claims 1[-] to 14, whereby [characterized in that within] in every iteration of the [a] wager drawing process the player, for which a [whose] signal or coupon with wager information is being processed within this iteration, information is [being] sent through communication lines including [an information about] a serial number of this iteration in the wager [playing] round, in which the wager is being processed, and about a serial number of this wager [playing] round.

28. A gaming method comprising the steps of:
defining a game set consisting of a plurality of information elements;
establishing a series of wager selection rules defining the selection of a winning wager based on the plurality of information elements, the wager selection rules including preconditions for a wager drawing end based on a quantitative wager distribution among the information elements, and rules for defining the winning wager or wagers at the end of each wager round;
receiving and registering one or more wagers from one or more players, whereby the wagers correspond to the plurality of information elements, and the wagers registered define cumulatively a quantitative wager distribution;
iteratively processing and analyzing the successive quantitative wager distributions to establish whether the preconditions for the wager drawing end have been achieved, and terminating the wager round where wager selection rules indicate a wager drawing end.

29. The method as claimed in claim 1 comprising the further step of determining the identity of the player associated with the wager and establishing the status of that player's player account to establish if sufficient credits are available to place the wager and simultaneously debiting the player account for the amount wagered.

30. The method as claimed in claim 1, comprising the further step of carrying wagers not processed by the iterative-analytical wager drawing process before the completion of the current playing round to a subsequent round for processing by the iterative-analytical wager drawing process.